

Barrow is an original cosponsor of Kingston's "Fuel Choices for American Security Act of 2005"; joins fellow Georgia Representative at a Capitol Hill press conference to discuss the legislation

Washington, DC - In a bipartisan effort to help curb America's growing appetite for imported foreign oil, Savannah area Congressman John Barrow (12th District) today joined with fellow Georgia Congressman Jack Kingston (1st District) to introduce new legislative efforts that promote fuel conservation standards and increased alternative energy development.

"This bipartisan legislation is an important step in the right direction towards reshaping our nation's energy priorities and meeting future energy demands," Barrow said at this morning's press conference on Capitol Hill. "I want to thank Congressman Kingston for reaching across the aisle and giving me the opportunity to be a part of this important legislation."

If passed by Congress, the "Fuel Choices for American Security Act of 2005" would put into place new conservation goals and incentives to help decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil by 2.5 million barrels per day by 2015 - that goal would increase to 5 million barrels by 2025.

To do so, the bill would enhance tax credits for consumers of hybrid electric vehicles, and promote fuel development and research in alternative energy production, including biodiesel and biomass.

“This bill is good for the environment and for our national security,” Barrow continued. “Congressman Kingston and I both agree that together, America can do better when it comes to fuel conservation and planning for our country's future energy needs.”

The bill has already received the support of the non-partisan, Savannah-based Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE). SACE is a nonprofit organization that researches and advocates “responsible energy choices” that work to “ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.”

“We applaud Congressman Barrow and Congressman Kingston's efforts to reduce our dangerous dependency on foreign oil,” Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Director Dr. Stephen Smith said. “This bill helps harness U.S. innovation in alternative fuels from farms, invests in more efficient technologies like hybrids, anti-idling units, and advanced tires, and supports the development of strong light weight materials like carbon fibers.

Supporting these new technologies and policies will protect human health and the natural environment while creating new jobs.

Most importantly, it will bring the U.S. back into a position of leadership in the world by helping solve the tough energy challenges of our day.”

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